

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11-18, 20-22, and 27-32 are currently pending in the application; Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11-18, 20-22, and 27-32 having been amended, and Claims 3, 7-10, 19, 23-26, and 33-48 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, by way of the present response. Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the courtesies extended by Examiner James Kramer to Applicants' representative during a personal interview of July 1, 2004. Applicants respectfully assert that the Interview Summary prepared by the Examiner, a copy of which was presented to Applicants' representative at the conclusion of the interview, states the substance of the interview in accordance with MPEP § 713.04.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,311,425 to Inada. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims have overcome the rejection for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a reservation method (e.g., as recited in independent Claim 1), as well as a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium implementing a reservation method (e.g., as recited in independent Claim 17). Independent Claim 1 recites displaying in a single window data in a calendar section, an inventory information section, and a reservation information section. The calendar section is configured to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation, and the inventory information section is configured to indicate a room available for reservation. Independent Claim 1 further recites automatically updating the inventory information section to indicate

the room available for reservation when consecutive dates are selected in the calendar section and automatically updating the calendar section to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation when the room is selected. Independent Claim 17 recites a first code segment configured to display in a single window data in a calendar section, an inventory information section, and a reservation information section. The calendar information section is configured to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation, and the inventory information section is configured to indicate a room available for reservation. A second code segment is configured to automatically update the inventory information section to indicate the room available for reservation when consecutive dates are selected in the calendar section and to automatically update the calendar section to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation when the room is selected.

Inada is directed to a reservation system terminal. Applicants respectfully assert that Inada does not teach, or render obvious, however, numerous claimed features recited in independent Claim 1. By way of specific non-limiting examples, Applicants respectfully assert that Inada does not teach or suggest the claimed features of displaying in a single window data in a calendar section configured to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation, and an inventory information section configured to indicate a room available for reservation, as recited in the independent claim.

Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that Inada states that an image control block 119 is provided with multi-window processing functions such that arrangement of various image windows is controlled on the basis of a discriminated result.¹ Further, inasmuch as the portions of Inada cited in the Office Action are directed to flight reservation, Inada does not teach or suggest the claimed features of a calendar section configured to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation (as Inada is not concerned with

¹ Column 7, lines 46-54, of Inada.

consecutive dates, which are not relevant to flight reservation), and does not teach or suggest an inventory information section configured to indicate a room available for reservation (as Inada is not concerned with room reservation).

In particular, independent Claim 1 recites “displaying in a single window data in a calendar section configured to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation, an inventory information section configured to indicate a room available for reservation, and a reservation information section.” Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the independent claim allowed.

Notwithstanding the above discussion, which Applicants respectfully assert provides sufficient and adequate grounds requiring withdrawal of the rejection, and subsequent allowance, of independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that Inada does not teach or suggest further features recited in the independent claim. By way of further specific non-limiting examples, Applicants respectfully assert that Inada does not teach or suggest the claimed features of automatically updating an inventory information section to indicate the room available for reservation when consecutive dates are selected in a calendar section and automatically updating the calendar section to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation when the room is selected, as recited in the independent claim.

Specifically, for reasons similar to those discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that Inada does not teach or suggest the claimed features of updating an inventory information section to indicate the room available for reservation, or the claimed features of updating the calendar section to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed features recited in independent Claim 1 can provide numerous advantages. By way of specific non-limiting examples, Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed features can provide a reservation method in which

changes to a range of consecutive days for which a reservation is desired automatically indicates changes in room availability, and in which changes to the room selection automatically indicates changes in the ranges of consecutive days for which the room is available. Thus, the claimed features recited in independent Claim 1 can provide great flexibility and ease of use for a user of the claimed reservation method.

In particular, independent Claim 1 recites “automatically updating the inventory information section to indicate the room available for reservation when consecutive dates are selected in the calendar section and automatically updating the calendar section to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation when the room is selected.” Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the above discussion provides sufficient alternate grounds for the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and the subsequent allowance, of independent Claim 1.

For reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that Inada does not teach, or render obvious, the claimed features in independent Claim 17 of a first code segment configured to display in a single window data in a calendar section indicating consecutive dates available for reservation, an inventory information section indicating a room available for reservation, and a reservation information section, as well as a second code segment configured to automatically update the inventory information section to indicate the room available for reservation when consecutive dates are selected in the calendar section and to automatically update the calendar section to indicate consecutive dates available for reservation when the room is selected.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claim 17.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 2, 4-6, 11-16, 18, 20-22, and 27-32 are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, as well as

Application No. 09/923,926

Response to Office Action mailed on April 21, 2004

for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claims 2, 4-6, 11-16, 18, 20-22, and 27-32 be withdrawn, and the allowance of dependent Claims 2, 4-6, 11-16, 18, 20-22, and 27-32.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11-18, 20-22, and 27-32 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Customer Number

22850

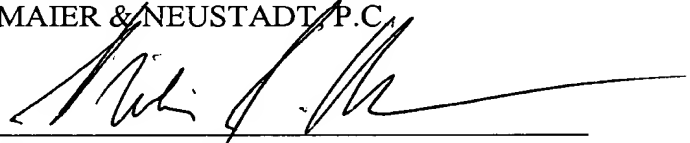
Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Michael E. McCabe, Jr.
Registration No. 37,182
Attorney of Record

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340

MEM/PH/me

I:\ATTY\PH\25s\255061\PRP AM 071304.DOC